



**SEVENTH ANNUAL
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
of
LESBIANS and GAY MEN
March 19-21, 1982
U.S.F. Tampa**

HISTORY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE -

The Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men started under the auspices of the Carolina Gay Association (CGA). The first conference was held on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in April 1976. More than 300 shared in that first conference experience.

Attendance more than doubled for the 1977 Conference held in Chapel Hill. The theme was a "Celebration of the Gay Lifestyle" and Jean O'Leary of the NGTF was a speaker.

The third conference in 1978 was held in Atlanta at the Georgian Terrace Hotel. Even though attendance was around 500, some left because of internal dissension and did not stay the entire time.

In 1979, an attempt was made to hold the conference in Tennessee, the only ERA-ratified state in our region. No site could be located so CGA came to the rescue and hosted it once again in Chapel Hill. Its theme was "Unity Through Diversity."

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights was to host the 1980 Conference but could not find a site so the Memphis Chapter took the challenge. More than 600 attended the very successful conference held at the Rivermont Hotel and heard from Barbara Grier, Leah Hopkins, and Leonard Matlovich. The theme was "Aware and Active."

Last year in 1981, the conference was hosted by the Students for Gay Awareness at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. About 250 attended the well-planned event with a theme of "Vive la Difference!". Speakers were Larry Bagneris, Michael Denny, and Ann Toups.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS -

VITO RUSSO, (Friday night), has received degrees in Film Studies and English. He has worked for the Film Department of the Museum of Modern Art and Cinema 5 Releasing Ltd. A regular contributor of articles to national and New York publications, his book The Celluloid Closet has been called the most definitive history of homosexuality in the movies. He has been lecturing on that topic at college campuses across the country.

MEL BOOZER, (Saturday morning), received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth and a graduate degree from Yale where he is a doctoral student in Sociology. He taught at the University of Maryland for three years and served in the Peace Corps in Brazil. He was President of the Gay Activists Alliance in Washington, D.C. which is his hometown. As an alternate delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention, he made history by being the first openly gay person to be nominated for vice-president. Formerly a member of the National Gay Task Force Board of Directors, he is currently serving as NGTF's Director of Civil Rights Advocacy.

SHEILA ORTIZ TAYLOR, (Saturday afternoon), received her doctorate from UCLA and is now a professor of Eighteenth Century English Literature, Creative Writing, and Women's Studies at the Florida State University in Tallahassee. She moved there from Los Angeles and has two teen-aged daughters. Faultline is her first published novel and has been receiving excellent reviews.

ROBIN TYLER, (Saturday night), was born and reared in Canada where she graduated from the Manitoba Theater Center. She was a playwright and director before she was 18. She moved to New York and attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. She began singing and doing stand-up comedy routines and even performed as a "female impersonator" for a year at one time. She teamed up with Patti Harrison in 1970 and took the only anti-war show to Vietnam where they were kicked off stage for kissing and saying "Love is never having to say you're sorry." They also invaded a NFL football game and demanded more sports scholarships for women. She recorded a solo comedy album with Olivia Records in 1979 entitled "Always a Bride-maid, Never a Groom." That year she also organized all the entertainers and speakers for the National March on Washington and drummed up support for it throughout the country. She has been taking her unique wit and satire on the road performing and lecturing on college campuses and various cities.

REVEREND CHARLES AREHART, (Sunday morning), is currently pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Denver and also serves on the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. He holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary and is presently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry Degree.



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ABOUT OUR FILMS -

GREETINGS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C., (28 min.), a newly-released film documenting the National March on Washington For Lesbian and Gay Rights, October 14, 1979. It features the more than 100,000 men and women who were there for that historic event.

WITCHES AND FAGGOTS, DYKES AND POOFTERS, (45 min.), a new Australian film which documents the social and individual oppression of lesbians and gay men both historically and in the present.

WOMEN I LOVE, (27 min.), a retrospectives of Barbara Hammer's works including footage collected over the past five years.

WHO HAPPEN TO BE GAY, (30 min.), a look at the lives of three men and three women and how they came to terms with their sexual orientation.

TEENAGE HOMOSEXUALITY, (15 min.) a segment done for CBS's Thirty-Minutes in which some teenagers from Houston share their lives and experiences.

BOYS BEWARE, (10 min.), a look at the way homosexuality used to be documented - a very stereotyped view from the 50's.

IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHILDREN, (48 min.), a look at the lives of lesbian mothers and their children and the problems which they have to face.

NOTE: We will try to show every film at least twice. The schedule will be posted in the list of workshops. We will also try to show films upon request during breaks.

ABOUT OUR WORKSHOPS -

We have attempted to offer a wide variety of workshops each session. Unfortunately, most facilitators either could not or would not do a workshop on Friday which is why we have little to offer that day. The same goes for Sunday but we are hoping to have some facilitators repeat their workshops if they were too crowded the first time. Such a list of repeated workshops will be posted behind the registration desk and will also be announced.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

1:00 - 11:00

Registration

2:30 - 3:45

Films:

RM 252

Greetings from Washington, D.C.
Witches and Faggots, etc.,

4:00 - 5:15

Films:

RM 252

Women I Loved
Who Happened To Be Gay
Teenage Homosexuality
Boys Beware

Workshops:

RM 200

Basic Psychic Skills - Discover your own psychic skills and abilities and how to apply them in your daily life. Presented by Jan Zupedies, a therapist from Tampa.

RM 201

Born-Again and Gay - Building Support in the Bible Belt. Lecture and discussion led by David Chewning of Evangelical Outreach in Atlanta.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday continued

RM 255-56

Seeing The Truth Behind My Social Image (Getting Over Myself) - Discussion and participation facilitated by Cary Shookoff, Ph.D., Miami.

Note: Tennis Tournament is to begin ~~during~~ this session. Check the schedule behind registration desk.

12:30 - 1:30

Lunch Break (Films on request in RM 252 and volleyball outside also)

1:30 - 2:30
RM 248

Speaker - Sheila Ortiz Taylor
Readings from Faultline

2:45 - 4:00

RM 252

Films:

Greetings From Washington, D.C.
Witches and Dykes, etc.,

Workshops:

RM 200

Coming out - All the way. A discussion facilitated by Moelle Valentine, a therapist from Lithia, Fl.

RM 201

Basic Legal Rights. Do you know what to do if you're arrested?, etc... Presentation by Tony Livoti, attorney, Ft. Lauderdale.

RM 202

Living Collectively - Alternate Lifestyles for Lesbians and Gays. Presentation and open forum led by Bel Whistling Moon, RFD, Bakersville, N.C.

RM 203

Man-Boy Love Controversy - A discussion about this issue facilitated by Joe Owens, Winter Haven, Fl.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday continued

RM 204

AL-AMON Self-Help Groups - Discussion about this program to assist people who have been affected by another person's alcoholism. Facilitated by John Russell, Ft. Lauderdale.

RM 205

Gay Peer Volunteers: Concepts and Operations. A look at the successful program at Florida State University by Ollie Lee Taylor, Tallahassee.

RM 215

Gay Rights, Women's Rights, Civil Rights - The relationship among these three movements is discussed by Bena Diggs, NOW activist, Pensacola.

RM 251

Sodom and St. Paul - A workshop session on what the Bible does and doesn't say about homosexuality led by Reverend Charlie Arehart, Pastor, MCC Denver.

RM 255-
56

Redifinition of the Clitoris: A Feminist Perspective. Discussion facilitated by Lisa Todd and Lynne Randall, Feminist Women's Health Center, Atlanta.

4:15 - 5:30

Films:

RM 252

Who Happen To Be Gay
Teenage Homosexuality
Boys Beware

Workshops:

RM 200

Linking up local and national organizations. A discussion facilitated by Mel Boozer, Washington, D.C.

RM 201

How To Organize Coming Out Groups. Focus on ways to organize such groups in your community. Presentation by Jonathon Ellis, Clearwater Beach, Fl.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday Continued

- RM 202 International David Society - The David Card System. Discussion and Information by Tim Loder, Ft. Lauderdale.
- RM 203 S/M: Pains, Pleasures, Politics. Lecture and discussion facilitated by T. R. Witonski, Orlando.
- RM 204 Lesbian/Gay Literature - An Overview. Presentation by Gene Loring and Allida Black, Atlanta.
- RM 205 Gays in the Military - How to avoid the draft and what to do if you're in. Discussion led by Paul Williams, Central Committee of Conscientious Objectors, Tampa.
- RM 215 Gay Teachers and Gay Students: the Problems Involved and Encountered by both teachers and students because of their sexuality. Discussion led by Doug Heydon and others from Group for Gay Awareness, Gainesville.
- RM 251 Grassroots Organizing - Getting the local Gay and Lesbian Community Organized. Facilitated by Barbara Grier, Maid Press, Tallahassee.
- RM 255-56 Psychic Healing - A presentation on psychic abilities - what they are and how to discover your own psychic gifts. Presented by Kay Mora, a professional psychic from Maine and Judy Montgomery, Jacksonville.

5:30 - 8:00

Dinner Break (Films upon request in Rm 252)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday continued

- 8:00 - 9:30 Speaker - Robin Tyler
RM 248 Entertainment and Lecture
- 9:30 - 11:00 Reception (Provided by Gay Community
RM 255-56 Services of Central Florida, Orlando)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 21

- 9:30 - 11:00 Religious Services Presiding will be
RM 255-56 Reverend Joseph Gilbert, King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, and Reverend Marilyn Marr, MCC Tampa. Reverend Charlie Arehart, MCC Denver will preach.
- 11:15 - 12:30 Films:
RM 252 Greetings From Washington, D.C. Witches and Dykes, etc.
- Workshops:
- RM 200 Gay Sports Clubs - Community Focus. How to organize and discussion led Terry Horn, Ft. Lauderdale Sunshine Athletic Association, and David Dupree, Atlanta.
- RM 201 Building Police-Community Relations. A panel discussion by members of the Gay/Lesbian Chapter of the Atlanta ACLU.
- RM 202 Legal Awareness - An overview of some of the legal issues and problems confronting gay people in Florida and in this country. Presented by David Slaughter, attorney, Orlando.
- RM 203 L'Chaim - To Life. On Being Gay and Jewish. Presentation and panel Discussion by Doree Benson, Joel Biazwitz, and Phil Wallach, Miami Shores.
- RM 204 Media Mavericks - Discussion about Gays and Lesbians in journalism, TV, radio led by David Hayward, Atlanta, writer for The Advocate.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday continued

- RM 205 Gay Participation in Local Government - A personal insight by Ollie Lee Taylor who recently ran for election to the city commission.
- RM 215 All People's Congress - Discussion about the planning for upcoming Days of Resistance against Reagan Administration including April 28 Focus on Lesbian and Gay Rights. Facilitated by Lenny Westerfield, Tampa.
- RM 251 Loving Partners: A Workshop For Couples. Discussion of issues common to same-sex couples. Facilitated by Tony Quaglieri, therapist from Tampa.
- RM 255-56 Make-Over For Men and Women - How to dress for success and style. A professional demonstration by staff from The Mantrap, Tampa.

12:45 - 1:30
RM 248

Closing Session

1:30 - 3:00

Picnic - Crescent Hill (In front of the University Center.)

Celebrate Difference

I wrote *The Celluloid Closet* to celebrate *difference*. It irritates me to see some person on a TV show saying to the majority, moral or otherwise, "Please accept us, because, after all, we're just like you." I think what needs to be said is "*Grow up!*" There are all kinds of people in the world. We're not all the same, and we should teach people to see the beauty in difference, to appreciate it without trying to change everyone into an acceptable norm.



People must stop co-operating with their own invisibility, and it has to start with the audience. Motion pictures will never reflect the reality of gay experience in America until people come out and make that reality visible. Fifty years from now, I don't want the only openly gay actors to be the dead ones. In the words of Rita Mae Brown, "I've heard all the excuses, honey, and they're all shit."

— Vito Russo, who spoke at the
7th Conference held in Tampa, Florida

